

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-04 DRC-01 EURE-00 /106 W

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P R 021630Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5740

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 7203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: STUDENT RALLY IN ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 7128, 7165, 7168

1. THREE-HOUR STUDENT RALLY OCTOBER 1 DOWNTOWN ATHENS SHOWED IMPRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF VARIOUS STUDENT MARXIST GROUPS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS. RALLY WAS WELL PUBLICIZED, PARTICULARLY THROUGH GLOSSY, EXPENSIVE POSTERS; CROWD DISCIPLINE WAS GOOD THROUGHOUT RALLY AND SUBSEQUENT MARCH TO EMBASSY EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZED BY RALLY MONITORS WITH MEGAPHONES. AFTER POLICE AND RALLY LEADERS NEGOTIATED FOR TEN-MINUTE EXTENSION OF DEMONSTRATION IN ENVIRONS EMBASSY, SEVERAL THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS PROMPTLY DISPERSED AT APPOINTED HOUR

2. ALTHOUGH PROMOTED AS A "STUDENTS INVITE THE PEOPLE" SHOW OF SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT GREEK CYPRIOTS, THE PEOPLE DID NOT SHOW UP. PRESUMABLY OTHERS EXERCISED CAUTION AND WITHHELD SUPPORT BECAUSE GOVERNMENT DENIAL OF PERMISSION TO MARCH AND ALSO OFFICIAL DENUNCIATIONS OF RALLY BY ORHODOX COMMUNISTS AND UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT REINFORCED POPULAR IDEA THAT "CRAZY, RADICAL KIDS" WERE BEHIND AFFAIR. UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL
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STUDENTS IN RANGE OF THREE TO FIVE THOUSAND CONSTITUTED

DEMONSTRATORS

3. SPEECHES INCLUDED ANTI-AMERICAN THEMES BUT SOVIET IMPERIALISM RECEIVED KNOCKS ALSO FROM ASSORTMENT OF TROSKYITE, MAOIST AND ANARCHIST STUDENT SPEAKERS. COMMUNIST SYMBOLS ON RED BANNERS PREDOMINATED WHILE LARGE, CENTRALLY PLACED BANNER CALLED FOR "ALL FOREIGN FLEETS TO LEAVE MEDITERRANEAN." ONLY NEWSPAPER BEING SOLD AT RALLY WAS NEWLY PUBLISHED "LAIKOS DROMOS" (POPULAR ROAD), INDEPENDENT MARXIST WEEKLY.
KUBISCH

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